In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2 and 10 without prejudice to their underlying subject matter or possible continued prosecution in a continuation application.

Please amend claims 1, 3 through 9, 11, 13, 14, and 23 as follows.

1. (Amended) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, wherein:

(a) said compensator comprises a layer of a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and a azimuthal angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer;

(b) said birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix including polymerized nematic material and unpolymerized nematic material; [and]

(c) each of [(i) A] said tilt angle [ϕ, relative to the plane of the layer,] and [(ii) an] said azimuthal angle [θ, relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, of said optical symmetry axis] varies along an axis normal to said layer, said tilt angle limited to values between approximately 25 degrees and approximately 65 degrees; and

(d) said variations in tilt angle and azimuthal angle being defined by a combination of molecular orientations of said polymerized nematic material and said unpolymerized nematic material.

3. (Amended) The compensator of [claim 2] a specified one of claims 5, 6, or 7, wherein said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix that defines said variation of the optical symmetry axis, said polymer matrix comprising polymerized nematic material.

4. (Amended) The compensator of [claim 2] a specified one of claims 5, 6, or 7, wherein said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix, said polymer matrix including polymerized nematic material and unpolymerized nematic material having respective molecular orientations which, in combination, define said variation of the optical symmetry axis.

5. (Amended) [The compensator of claim 2] A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a layer of a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein [an] said azimuthal angle [θ, relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, of said optical symmetry axis] varies along an axis normal to said layer, and said tilt angle is substantially fixed at an angle between approximately 25 degrees and approximately 65 degrees, along an axis normal to said layer.

6. (Amended) [The compensator of claim 2] A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a layer of a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein [a] said tilt angle [ϕ, relative to the plane of the layer, of the optical symmetry axis] varies along an axis normal to said layer, and said azimuthal angle is substantially fixed along an axis normal to said layer.

7. (Amended) [The compensator of claim 2] A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a layer of a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an

azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein each of [(i) a] said tilt angle [ϕ, relative to the plane of the layer,] and [(ii) an] said azimuthal angle [θ, relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, of said optical symmetry axis] varies along an axis normal to said layer.

8. (Amended) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a plurality of layers, each layer [comprising a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis which varies along an axis normal to said layer] in accordance with a specified one of claims 5, 6, or 7.

9. (Amended) [The] A compensator [of claim 8] for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a plurality of layers, each layer in accordance with a specified one of claims 5 or 7, wherein[:

(1) the optical symmetry axis of each layer has an azimuthal angle [θ□ which varies along an axis normal to said layer; and

(2)] the optical symmetry axes of adjacent said layers vary azimuthally in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively.

11. (Amended) [The] A compensator [of claim 10] for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a plurality of layers, each layer in accordance with a specified one of claims 6 or 7, wherein the tilt angles of adjacent said layers vary in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively.

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12. The compensator of claim 8, wherein (1) the birefringent material in each said layer includes a plurality of moieties of a liquid crystal material, and (2) a specified said layer aligns the moieties of liquid crystal material in an adjacent said layer.

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13. (Amended) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a plurality of layers, wherein:

(a) each layer comprises a birefringent material including a plurality of moieties of a liquid crystal material;

(b) the optical symmetry axis of each layer has a respective tilt angle [ϕ], relative to the plane of the layer, which varies along an axis normal to the layer, with the tilt angles of adjacent said layers varying in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively;

(c) the optical symmetry axis of each layer has a respective azimuthal angle [θ], relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, which varies along an axis normal to said layer, with the azimuthal angles of adjacent said layers varying in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively; and

(d) a specified said layer aligns the moieties of liquid crystal material in an adjacent said layer.

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14. (Amended) The compensator of a specified one of claims [2] 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, or 18 [or 8], further comprising one or more A-plate layers.

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23. (Amended) A liquid crystal display for viewing at various angles with respect to a normal axis perpendicular to the display, comprising: